



## TEXAS TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY ADVISORY COUNCIL

1100 West 49<sup>th</sup> Street, Austin, TX 78756-3199 M 512-458-7111x3406 M FAX 512-458-7238

A joint endeavor of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission and the Texas Department of Health

### TEXAS TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY ADVISORY COUNCIL

#### MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 25, 2002

The standing committees of the Texas Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council met from 8:00am to 11:00am at the Texas Department of Health.

The Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council met at the Texas Department of Health Conference Room M-739 from 12:45 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mary Adams  
Cheryl Amoruso  
Reverend Kenneth Archer  
Kate Burgess  
Mary Carlile, MD  
Nancy Childs, MD  
Pat Craig, PhD  
Tom Cowan  
Julia Hannay, PhD

Walter High, PhD  
Addie Horn  
Jeff Latham  
Cathy Rich, JD  
Manuel Rodriguez  
Annie Walker  
Lesa Walker  
Les Young

#### **MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

Mary Beth O'Hanlon  
Jessie Seawell III  
Susan Penfield

Carrie Morris  
Roger Webb

#### **TBI PROJECT STAFF PRESENT:**

Larry Swift  
Tina Lopez

Kathy Griffis-Bailey  
Susan Valley

#### **CONTRACTOR PRESENT:**

Andrea Bartels

#### **GUESTS PRESENT:**

Genna Watts, (TEA)

#### **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:**

Nancy Childs, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:45 pm and asked those present to introduce themselves.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None.

---

**MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 19, 2001 MEETING**

On a motion by Ken Archer seconded by Mary Carlile, the minutes were approved as presented.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Carrie Morris was absent due to illness. Nancy Childs, M.D., on behalf of the Chairperson, announced the members of a Planning Committee for the Council, primarily for the purposes of determining the future direction of the Council and for identifying ways to sustain/fund its work. Members of the Planning committee include: Mary Adams, Kate Burgess, Pat Craig, Jeff Latham, and Roger Webb.

The Council adopted a proclamation honoring Kimberly Arlinghaus, M.D., for her years of service as a founder and member of the Texas Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Larry Swift presented the Traumatic Brain Injury Project Director's report. He distributed copies of the first report from the Project Evaluator, the Narrative Progress Report submitted with the grant renewal application, and a summary of meetings in which TBI staff regularly participate. He emphasized the need to seek funding and build momentum to keep the Project functioning long after grant funds are no longer available. He is excited about the initiation of the contract to evaluate the project.

By next fall, the Council must forward a report to HHSC concerning existing regulatory and statutory barriers to services for people with traumatic brain injury and recommendations for removing barriers. Any legislative ideas need to be addressed soon with the development of a planned legislative agenda. It will be important to raise awareness of problems that exist for people with TBI among legislators, policy makers, and other interested stakeholders.

**TBI REGISTRY REPORT**

Tammy Sajak was absent due to illness.

**HOUSE BILL 1676**

Nancy Childs reported that a stakeholder group has been working on recommendations for implementing HB 1676. They had planned to complete their work by early November. In response to the preliminary report, the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) has developed draft proposed rules and is asking for formal input from the Texas Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council. Lengthy discussion took place and several recommendations for changes to the proposed Texas Department of Insurance rules were made. Nancy Childs will prepare a summary of the Council comments and distribute it to members. Members will send comments on the summary and draft rules to Nancy Childs by January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2002.

A committee chaired by Nancy Childs and including Walter High and Julia Hannay is authorized to complete the comments and submit them to the TDI on behalf of the TBIAC. This motion was made by Julia Hannay and seconded by Pat Craig. The motion passed.

---

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Nominations Committee:** No report.

**Identification Committee**

Walter High, reported the activities of the Identification Committee. Texas Department of Health has notified the members of the Injury Epidemiology and Surveillance Program TBI Trauma Registry Stakeholder Committee that a legal opinion will be obtained prior to initiating a proposed trauma registry rule change. Given the constraints that exist, the estimated best timeline is to have rules adopted by January 2003. The rule change will not contain any provisions to share any contact information from the registry with the TBI Project. The Committee goal now is to develop other avenues to identify and contact people.

Kathy Griffis-Bailey has been working with the Texas Trauma Coordinators Forum to distribute return mail brochures. The Committee discussed other avenues for disseminating identification forms, including possible mechanisms to work with the Texas Education Agency. Children with TBI are not being well identified and served by the school systems. Information about the TBI Project and copies of the return mailer appear in the current issues of the Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) Services Program parent newsletter and as an insert in the Brain Injury Association of Texas newsletter. The Committee is exploring expanded distribution of the return mail brochure by directly corresponding with neuropsychologists and other providers. Also, the Committee will develop a release or consent form that could be used by clients through case managers or care coordinators to direct state programs to release identification information to the TBI Project.

Distribution of the return mailer through the TBIAC Website has been delayed due to technical difficulties resulting from the relocation of Project staff. The Committee reviewed final versions of the return mail brochures, the website introduction, and statements supporting named reporting.

**Barriers Committee**

Mary Adams reported the activities of the Barriers Committee. Susan Valley is following up with the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) long-term care work groups to insure inclusion of TBI issues. The Children's Policy Council is working on the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), the CSHCN waiting list, and Medicaid funding shortfalls. The SB 367 Interagency Task Force on Care Settings for Persons with Disabilities is working on rule changes that will ensure clients who reside in a nursing facility or an ICF-MR facility and their families are provided with information on community based care and supports options.

The Bexar County pilot of the Consolidated Waiver Program (CWP) is operational now. Pat Craig is on the evaluation committee. The Committee recommends that participants with TBI be identified. Several questions arose on the use of psychological exams and which battery of exams to include in any waiver implementation recommendations for cognitive rehabilitation therapy.

The motion was made by Addie Horn and seconded by Gary Rose to submit formal comment at a public hearing on the Consolidated Waiver Program evaluation plans, recommending that people with TBI participating in the consolidated waiver program be identified, and that someone with experience in TBI issues be named to participate in the evaluation committee. The motion passed.

---

**Education Committee**

Andrea Bartels of Brain Injury Association of Texas shared materials being developed for the Council, including concussion palm cards for use by EMS staff throughout Texas and the "Important First Steps" brochure. Jeff Latham reported that he has been in contact with EMS personnel concerning the development of similar materials, and he shared draft copies of those brochures/cards. The target audience is non-physicians, first responder, EMS personnel. The Committee and the Council recommended several changes to the materials. The Committee will make revisions and distribute copies to the Council.

The motion was made by Walter High and seconded by Kate Burgess that the approval of the materials be delegated to the Education Committee. The motion passed.

The Committee reviewed materials to be included in a packet for families distributed to trauma centers.

The motion was made by Les Young and seconded by Pat Craig to accept the recommendation of the Committee that the materials to be included in the trauma center packet be approved as revised. The motion passed.

Andrea Bartels announced dates for upcoming training, including February 26, 2002 – Social Workers Training in Amarillo, and March 25 & 26, 2002 - Brain Injury Association training in Advocacy on TBI. Discussion followed concerning possible additional topics and venues for educational presentations.

Larry Swift reported on the activities of the new Higher Education Task Force. The Task Force is planning a clinical trial, using a survey to determine the knowledge base of Texas Rehabilitation Commission counselors. The Task Force will develop the research design in the next few months.

The Continuing Medical Education (CME) Committee at TDH develops training for physicians. The TBI project is working with this group to expand and authorize CME units for primary care physicians.

**OPEN MEETINGS RESOLUTION**

The Council adopted the following resolution: notices for meetings of the Council be posted and those meetings conducted according to the provisions of the Open Meetings Act. The motion was passed by Tom Cowan and seconded by Julia Hannay.

**LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES FOR 2003**

The time available for the meeting expired prior to discussion of this agenda item.

**NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA ITEMS**

The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for April 19, 2002, and will be held in Austin at a location to be announced.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00PM